

SECRET

239 document 001 to 02 1. pages 1  
Number 1 of 12 copies, Series A.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: January 21, 1959

RM/R  
file  
1/21/59  
mfr

SUBJECT:

PARTICIPANTS: Sir Harold Caccia, British Ambassador  
Mr. Merchant, Assistant Secretary for European Affairs

Document must be returned  
to the RM/R Central File

COPIES TO: S/S, G, EUR, GER, EE, BNA

(1)

I spoke to Ambassador Caccia last night after dinner on the matter of the proposed answers to be used in the House of Commons if the Government was pressed on the Alsop Berlin piece. I argued strenuously that the first general answer was truthful, adequate and as far as the British should go in any public statement. I said I feared the results would be disastrous if the Foreign Minister went on to say under questioning pressure that there was no agreement to use force in maintaining our surface access rights to Berlin.

Caccia is obviously very disturbed over the Alsop article which he believes was a purposeful leak. I told him I did not believe it and in any event was positive that no leak, intentional or otherwise, came from the State Department.

EUR:LIMerchant:mt

RM/R  
1/21/59  
Rev. [initials]  
Dist. [initials]

SECRET

FILED

SECRET FILE

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 877418  
By BG NARA Date 10/1/86

762.0221/1-2159

CS/G

762.0221/1-2159